

D. Darst.
Preliminary Amendment
Application No. 10/672,239

69. (Withdrawn) The pill box of claim 65, further comprising a compressible gel inserted between the blade guard and a distal end of the lid, wherein the gel forces the blade guard to slide over the blade when the lid is raised.

70. (Withdrawn) The pill box of claim 62, wherein the lid comprises a programmable pill counter.

71. (Withdrawn) The pill box of claim 62, wherein the base comprises a programmable pill counter.

72. (Withdrawn) The pill box of claim 62, wherein the base comprises a cavity, and the lid comprises a corresponding protuberance that is sized to fill the cavity when the lid is closed against the base, wherein a pill that is placed in the cavity is crushed when the lid is closed against the base.

73. (New) A pill box comprising:
a base having a cutting surface;
a lid having a cutting device; and
a retractable guard operable to cover the cutting device when the lid is moved away from the base and to retract and expose the cutting device when the lid is moved toward the base.

74. (New) The pill box of claim 73, wherein the base and the lid are coupled.

75. (New) The pill box of claim 73, wherein the cutting device is a blade.

76 75. (New) The pill box of claim 73, wherein the lid includes channels.

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77 ~~76~~. (New) The pill box of claim 75, wherein the channels guide the retractable guard.

78 ~~77~~. (New) The pill box of claim 73, wherein the retractable guard moves linearly.

79 ~~78~~. (New) A pill box comprising:
a cutting surface;
a cutting device; and
a guard adapted to cover the cutting device when the cutting surface is moved away from the cutting surface and to expose the cutting device when the cutting device is moved near the cutting surface.

80 ~~79~~. (New) The pill box of claim 78, wherein the cutting device is a blade.

81 ~~80~~. (New) The pill box of claim 78, wherein the cutting surface is included in a base of the pill box and the cutting device is included in a lid of the pill box.

82 ~~81~~. (New) The pill box of claim 80, wherein the lid includes channels that guide the guard.

83 ~~82~~. (New) The pill box of claim 78 wherein the guard moves linearly.